## **Amendments to Claims**

Claims 1-121. (Cancelled)

### 122. (New) A novel compound of Formula I:

Formula I

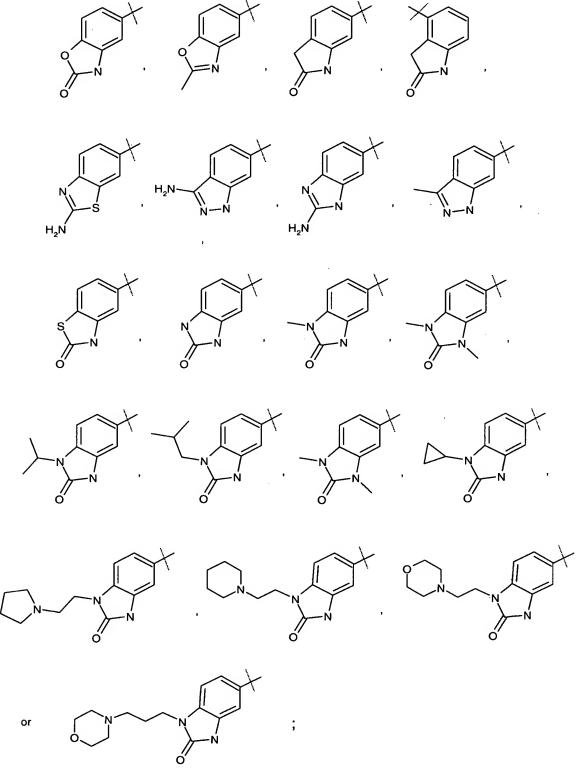
wherein,

"A" represents

"B" represents

and

represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:



X and Y together represent  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2-O-$ , or  $-O-CH_2-$ ; "----" represents a double bond;

 $R^4\text{-}R^7 \text{ each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, } (C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl,} \\ (C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkoxy, or } OR^{14} \text{ wherein } R^{14} \text{ represents } (C_1\text{-}C_4)\text{alkyl-aryl,} \\ (C_1\text{-}C_4)\text{alkyl-substituted aryl, } (C_1\text{-}C_4)\text{alkyl-heterocycle, or } (C_1\text{-}C_4)\text{alkyl-}(C_3\text{-}C_7)\text{cycloalkyl;} \\ R^8 \text{ represents hydrogen, halo, } (C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl, hydroxymethyl,} \\ (C_1\text{-}C_4)\text{alkyl-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkoxy, or } COR^{12} \text{ wherein } R^{12} \text{ represents } (C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkoxy;} (C_3\text{-}C_7)\text{cycloalkyl, phenyl, or substituted aryl;} \\ \text{or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.}$ 

#### 123. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein

represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following:

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

#### 124. (New) The compound according to Claim 123 wherein

represents a benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent at at least one of R1-R3, wherein said benzofused heterocycle having a non-hydrogen substituent is given by the following

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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- 125. (New) The compound according Claim 122 wherein  $R^4$  and  $R^6$  each independently represent hydrogen, halo,  $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ alkoxy, or  $OR^{14}$  wherein  $R^{14}$  represents  $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$ alkyl-aryl,  $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$ alkyl-substituted aryl,  $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$ alkyl-heterocycle, or  $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$ alkyl- $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$ cycloalkyl..
- 126. (New) The compound according Claim 122 wherein  $R^5$  and  $R^7$  each independently represent hydrogen, hydroxy, halo,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, or  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy.
- 127. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 wherein  $R^8$  represents hydrogen, halo,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or  $(C_3-C_7)$ cycloalkyl.
- 128. (New) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein  $R^8$  represents halo,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl, or  $(C_1-C_4)$ alkyl  $-(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy.
- 129. (New) The compound according to Claim 127 wherein R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen.
- 130. (New) The compound according to Claim 122 which is selected from the group consisting of

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

# 131. (New) A compound of the formula

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 132. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I according to Claim 122 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.
  - 133. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

- 134. (New) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.
- 135. (New) A method for the treatment for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound according to Claim 122.
- 136.(New) A method for the treatment of diastolic or systolic congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

137. (New) A method for the treatment of hypertension comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of the formula

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.